

Subject: INFO-HAMS Digest V89 #937  
To: INFO-HAMS@WSMR-SIMTEL20.ARMY.MIL

INFO-HAMS Digest                      Mon, 27 Nov 89                      Volume 89 : Issue 937

Today's Topics:

A Computing Decision: Apple vs. IBM  
DELETE NANE FROM MAILING LIST  
ECPA (was: Military aircraft callsigns)  
Free Vacuum Forever!  
How to save your car's electrical stuff?  
Oldtimers: TV Ads Save Amateur Radio?  
RS Discone? To buy or not to buy?  
Termination of Info-Hams

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Date: Mon, 27 Nov 89 13:12:43 EST  
From: "Gary F. Kendall" <KENDALLG@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU>  
Subject: A Computing Decision: Apple vs. IBM

I'd like some general input from our fine studio audience here... 8)

Hopefully within the next few months I'm going to buy myself a decent PC system to use at home. In addition to the 'usual' software (word processing, spreadsheet, terminal emulation, etc.) I'd like to be able to use it for ham radio as well (like packet, station logs, etc.). My dilemma is whether a Macintosh would \*really\* be worth the extra \$\$\$ in comparison to an IBM-compatible system, especially in terms of available 'plug-in' hardware boards (I guess I'd have to go with the Mac II for that capability). I've worked with both systems; I think the Mac is more 'user friendly' but I haven't dabbled seriously enough with either system to know what they can really do (I have to buy something that my wife can use, too!)

Any input would be most appreciated. Thanks.  
Acknowledge-To: <KENDALLG@VTVM1>

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Date: Mon, 27 Nov 89 12:45:26 CST  
From: kevin@ncsc.navy.mil (Venturella)  
Subject: DELETE NANE FROM MAILING LIST

PLEASE DELETE MY NAME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST.  
THANK YOU

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Date: 27 Nov 89 18:51:10 GMT

From: microsoft!clayj@uunet.uu.net (Clay Jackson)  
Subject: ECPA (was: Military aircraft callsigns)

We live right underneath a Cell-Phone tower (about 150' as the RF travels). A while back, we started "hearing" interference on one of the channels on our baby monitor (49.??? MHz), after about 6 months of trouble free operation. About all we heard was "fuzz", with some occasional breaks.

I got curious, and started playing around with our cordless phone, which is also at approximately 49.??? MHz. After some experimentation, I discovered that on ONE of the channels (I forget the exact freqs, but it was close to the baby monitor freq), if the channel was "quiet" (for example if I called my modem line and left the line open with nothing on it) I could hear the same "interference", very weakly, but also VERY clearly. It turned out to be cell-phone. Well, a bit of math told us that the frequencies of both the baby monitor and the portable phone, when multiplied by an appropriate factor (I forget the exact numbers) fall right in the middle of the cell-phone allocation.

After discussing this with a couple of ham friends (I'm just a wanna-be right now), I decided to call the local cell-phone company and report this to them (on the theory that since the tower has been there (and operational) since before our house, and the problem just started, they might have a bad/marginal piece of equipment, like a bad local oscillator in a transmitter). After working my way through the receptionist and two layers of PR flacks, I received a call from a LAWYER, the conversation went something like this (not an EXACT quote, but close enough, particularly the parts about "our" frequencies):

"According to our engineers, the ONLY way you could be receiving any cellular phone transmissions is with a radio tuned to our frequencies. Of course, any such monitoring is illegal, and if you keep it up, we'll be required to have you prosecuted. Are you aware of the "Communications Privacy Laws?"

After assuring him that I was, I asked him what HIS qualifications were to make a statement like the one above. He hemmed and hawed, and talked about how "good our engineers are", and other such nonsense.

After I told him three or four times that I did NOT have a scanner that was capable of receiving those frequencies, and that I would NOT "talk about what you heard", I just thanked him for calling me and gave up.

That was a or so ago. I wonder if the "scanner police" are going to come knock at my door some nite?

(I'm sure glad I didn't do "that" mod to my Pro-2004).

Clay Jackson  
Microsoft

-----  
Date: 27 Nov 89 17:02:17 GMT  
From: mfci!rodman@uunet.uu.net (Paul Rodman)  
Subject: Free Vacuum Forever!

>  
>Paul and Mark:  
>  
>I could not agree more but you should read the Electronic Communications  
>and Privacy Act carefully. Further, don't get caught by a sheriff in  
>certain New Jersey counties with a 2 meter rig that is CAPABLE of receiving  
>police communications or they will charge you with a crime and put you  
>in the klink. This is being fought here but these are the facts, as  
>despicable as they seem to hams and shortwave listeners and scanner buffs.  
>

I'm quite aware that what I believe is right and what is law do not  
agree, but thanks for your concern/warning anyway.

Cheers from Ct,  
pkr

{ where radar detectors are "illegal" to use and the  
state police has been illegally taping all outgoing calls for  
years .....:-( }

-----  
Date: 27 Nov 89 18:20:51 GMT  
From: cica!ctrlsol!samsung!cs.utexas.edu!wuarchive!usc!merlin.usc.edu!  
girtab.usc.edu!cyamamot@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Cliff Yamamoto)  
Subject: How to save your car's electrical stuff?

In article <1989Nov27.160950.13937@sj.ate.slb.com> poffen@molehill writes:  
>My friend bought a Mazda MX-6 last year. Earlier this year the regulator on  
>the alternator went berserk. As near as the dealer can figure, the voltage  
>out of the alternator probably went as high as 100V! Everything, and I mean  
>EVERYTHING electrical in the car blew out. Virtually every light bulb, all of  
>the computers (engine, transmission, turbo boost, etc) blew out. The stereo  
>smoked, the air conditioner fried, the windshield wiper motor melted, the  
>battery exploded. In addition, several wiring harnesses burned up.  
>  
>Russ Poffenberger  
DOMAIN: poffen@sj.ate.slb.com

This got me thinking about the audio/ham-radio gear I have installed in my car. Can anyone confirm if the following would work:

```
(-) 12 Vdc (+) 30 Amp
+--- battery ---o-fuse-o---+----> to your favorite & expensive equipment
|                               |
|                               -
|                               ^ 30 Amp +15 Vdc Zener diode ( just match the
|                               |                               diode rating with
+-----+-----+-----+-----> car chassis                    the fuse rating )
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Are there any better ideas out there? What can be done to clamp a large voltage surge or at least blow out the fuse when a surge occurs?

Thanks,  
Cliff

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Date: 27 Nov 89 16:55:37 GMT  
From: vsi1!wyse!stevev@apple.com (Steve Wilson xtemp dept303)  
Subject: Oldtimers: TV Ads Save Amateur Radio?

In article <AZPsPQG00WB6EekdZv@andrew.cmu.edu> kg19+@andrew.cmu.edu (Kurt A. Geisel) writes:

>I seem to remember in my very early youth (12 years or younger, I  
>can't remember exactly) there were a series of TV ads for Amateur Radio.  
>I saw them before I knew what Amateur Radio was, but I still remember  
>them and I think at least one of them starred Dick Van Dyke. Do any  
>"oldtimers" remember these?  
>  
>What I am wondering is A) who sponsored these (ARRL?) and B) why were  
>they run at the time? Was there a lull in membership back then too?  
>Do you think TV or radio ads would do anything today? Are they even  
>affordable today?

Am I that old? I believe the adds were sponsored by the ARRL(don't swear to that one) but they were done by Mr. Van Dyke as a favor to a long-time associate (I think his manager) who was a ham. I believe the spots were done in the late 70's as part of the League's Tune-in-the-World promotion effort of amateur radio. Gee, everyone who blames the league about not attempting to grow our numbers always seems to forget that little effort? Seems thats about when we had the greatest spurt in our growth as I recall...I would guess they were aired as public service spots. As I further recall, you usually only saw them after 11:00pm ;-)

73's de Steve KA6S

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Date: Mon, 27 Nov 89 15:05:47 GMT  
From: "Pete Lucas, NERC-TLC, Swindon." <PJML%IBMA.NERC-  
WALLINGFORD.AC.UK@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU>  
Subject: RS Discone? To buy or not to buy?

Thanks to all of you who've replied to my query on RS Discone antenna.  
I've decided not to buy the RS one - I've ordered a REVCONE (this is a UK  
made version - stainless steel hardware, with a 'N' connector for the coax and  
a tapped hole in the top so i can add a 1/4 wave whip for my favourite band.  
Its no more pricey than the RS product, and of course theres nowhere for a  
whip to fit on the RS one!  
Will let the net know how it behaves. I dont know if REVCO products are  
available in the States - methinks probably not.

++Pete

Please use the following addresses for reply:

JANET: PJML@UK.AC.NERC-WALLINGFORD.IBMA	+ \Natural
ARPA : PJML%IA.NWL.AC.UK@NSS.CS.UCL.AC.UK	+ \Environment
EARN : PJML%UK.AC.NWL.IA@UKACRL	+ \Research
AX25 : G6WBJ {144.650MHz}	+ \Council
SPAN : STAR::"PJML%IA.NWL.AC.UK@NSS.CS.UCL.AC.UK"	+ NERC Computer Services
PHONE: +44 793 411613	+ Holbrook House
FAX : +44 793 411503	+ Station Road
	+ SWINDON SN1 1DE
	+ GREAT BRITAIN

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Date: Mon, 27 Nov 89 13:56:33 CST  
From: Amxtmlme@redstone-emh2.army.mil  
Subject: Termination of Info-Hams

Request this office be removed from mailing of INFO-HAMS.  
Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

JEAN S. MCGOWAN  
Chief, Equipment Management Branch

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End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #937

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